 

Australian Early Development Census

Early Childhood Sector Messages

## About the AEDC

* The AEDC is a reliable measure of child development across five domains.
* Five figures represent the domains of the AEDC:
* The first domain, illustrated by a figure representing a child kicking a ball, is Physical health and wellbeing.
* The second domain, illustrated by two figures representing children interacting with each other, is Social competence.
* The third domain, illustrated by two figures representing one child comforting another child, is Emotional maturity.
* The fourth domain, illustrated by a figure representing a child looking at a book, is Language and cognitive skills (school based).
* The fifth domain, illustrated by a figure representing a child speaking, is Communication skills and general knowledge.
* Use the AEDC confidently as a holistic measure of child development in your community.

## What does the AEDC data tell communities?

* The AEDC is a starting point for identifying the needs of children in your community.
* This diagram, of a semi-circle surrounded by four arches, each increasing in size, depicts an ecological model of child development. The child is represented by a semi-circle in the center. The inner arch represents the impact of the family and household. The second arch represents the influence of kinship and neighbourhood. The third arch represents the impact of community and services. The outer arch represents the impact of political, economy, social and cultural factors.
* Use the AEDC results to start a conversation with other service providers in your area.

## Why the AEDC is important

* Early childhood services have an important role in children’s development.
* The AEDC shows that 1 in 5 children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domain. In 2018, the majority, 78%, of children were on track.
* Every early childhood provider impacts on the AEDC results.

## What can communities do?

* Good programmes at critical points in development are able to shape children’s outcomes across five domains.
* Between 0 to 3 years: high quality home visiting and playgroups
* Between 3 to 5 years: high quality care and early education
* At school entry: High quality schooling environments
* Critically evaluate your programmes in line with national quality standards.

## Track changes over time

* The AEDC can be used to identify strengths in your area.
* Promote resilience through:
* Protective, supportive relationships, access to/availability of community services, participation in community activities, social skills, independence, adequate family income and housing, breastfeeding, competent and stable care, high quality universal programmes, child and family friendly policies.
* Monitor improvements in the percentage of children on-track over time.

To explore AEDC results, visit the [AEDC website](http://www.aedc.gov.au)[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. www.aedc.gov.au [↑](#footnote-ref-1)